

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A convertible mower deck having a ~~which, in one embodiment, encloses the blade when it is in a mulching mode~~ and a discharge mode ~~is provided. In a discharge mode, the deck provides one or more gaps, troughs or ducts through which cut material clippings can escape. The deck is convertible~~ convert from the mulching mode to a rear the discharge mode by removal of a ~~plug or an~~ insert that extends along the rear of the cutting chamber walls of the deck. The ~~plug or insert is configured to seat into a slot, windfoil or ridge provided in the deck. A quick connect fastener at one end secures the plug to the deck. The ridge, windfoil or slot is flared outwardly and/or downwardly to provide a discharge opening. Because the material clippings in a discharge mode are permitted to exit through the opening(s) before they impact a mulch ramp deflector (on the underside of the mower deck or on the blade) the clippings "leak" out the opening and onto the top of the lawn or into a bag.~~